

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A circuit board comprising a mechanism for
2 provably disabling the circuit board, the mechanism comprising:
signal means for conducting a signal between the mechanism and the circuit
4 board;
separation means for facilitating detachment of the mechanism from the circuit
6 board; and
identification means for identifying the mechanism;
8 wherein the circuit board becomes at least partly non-functional if the mechanism
is detached from the circuit board.

2. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said signal means
2 comprises a wire trace.

3. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said separation means
2 comprises one or more gaps between the mechanism and the circuit board.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The circuit board of claim 1 [[4]], wherein
2 said identification means comprises an identification circuit.

6. (Currently Amended) The circuit board of claim 1 [[4]], wherein
2 said identification means comprises a visible identification code.

7. (Currently Amended) The circuit board of claim 1 [[4]], wherein
2 said identification means is protected from being easily manipulated.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
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29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) A circuit board assembly configured for provably disabling
2 the circuit board, the assembly comprising:

a circuit board comprising a tab having:

4 a proximate end connected to the circuit board;

a distal end opposite the proximate end; and

6 two opposing sides separated from the assembly by gaps;

an identification module situated on the tab; and

8 a signal conductor extending from the circuit board to the tab and configured to
convey a signal when the assembly is powered;

10 wherein removal of the tab at or near the proximate end so as to separate said
identification module from the assembly causes the signal trace to be broken.

2 35. (New) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein the circuit
board assembly cannot be powered if the signal conductor is broken.

2 36. (New) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein one or
more operating functions of the circuit board become inoperable when the signal
conductor is broken.

2 37. (New) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein the
identification module comprises a hologram.

2 38. (New) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein the
identification module comprises a barcode.

2 39. (New) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein the
identification module comprises a sequence of characters.

2 40. (New) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein the
identification module comprises a chip.

2 41. (New) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, further comprising
an integrated circuit connected to the signal conductor.

2 42. (New) The circuit board assembly of claim 34, wherein the signal
conductor does not extend to the distal end of the tab.